

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917

September, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 09

club officers

President (414) 529-5583
 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
 1st V. Pres. (414) 475-6404
 Matt Planning KB9PRC
 2nd V. P. K9LCQ@arri.net
 Brian White K9LCQ
 Secretary 1 (262) 968-2724
 Jim Tromblay WB9LNU
 Treasurer (414) 744-6870
 Lester Hundt KB9QZQ

Board of Directors

Barbara Brewer KB9TIV
 (99-01) (414) 771-0640
 Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
 (99-01) (414) 344-4694
 John Merkl WB9PSE
 (99-01) (414) 259-9091
 Ken Eggert W9MOT
 (00-02) (262) 796-0969
 Kate Kedney KA9MWT
 (00-02) (262) 896-9676
 Tom Fuszard KF9PU
 (00-02) (262) 789-7975

HamateurChatter
 Editor

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
 (414) 344-4694
 Mailings
 Barbara Brewer KB9TIV
 (414) 771-0640
 John Merkl WB9PSE
 (414) 259-9091

From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP



Dave DeFebo

It's time to talk about the Christmas Party. What, Christmas so soon? By the time you are reading this it is the end of October. The party is about 6 weeks away. There is only one more newsletter before then. So, get your reservation in for the 2000 Christmas Party. Just remember, it is not just a meal, but a gathering during the holiday season with your fellow hams (not the food).

MRAC is back in the license class business (not really a business remember, we are non-profit). For two - Saturdays in November, 4 and 11, we will be running a Technician license class at AES. Hours are 9-Noon (or whenever, the store is open till 3). The third Saturday is testing by Badger Examiners (W5YI) and

the fourth Saturday is testing by us (MRAC). Class is free to members, non-members pay \$15 and upon successful completion of the class (passing the test) they will become members. There is also a fee for the book (to be purchased at AES of course). It's not too late to volunteer to help out with teaching. Here is your chance to give back to the amateur radio community. Teach! P.S. Code classes on the air are pending and a General class will hopefully happen early in 2001.

A question was brought up at the last meeting about how much operating the members do. Sometimes it seems we don't talk about operating too much. Or does it? Let's see, what programs have we had this year? January and February were "Open Mike" nights with members telling about themselves. March was Don Michalski, ARRL Wisconsin SM talking about ARRL and the Section Manager's job. April was some misc. rambling, May was a return to our auctions. June was

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2ndshifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 [±]	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. Net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun Net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 ⁺	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at 344-4694 or call:

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEURCHATTER

HAMATEURCHATTER is the newsletter of **MRAC** (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are \$15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is (262) 797-MRAC.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.

the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Visit our website at: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

The Story of The Decibel. July was kit building and some new radios. August was cross-banding repeating. September was misc. club business and discussions. If you go back to 1999 you will see (among others) programs on APRS, working DX without an amplifier and antenna performance. That looks like a pretty good cross-section of topics (and now I don't have to do a year-end recap along with everyone else at the end of the year). What should we be talking about? What is amateur radio?

Those are two very big questions. Let's start with what is amateur radio. We don't have enough pages in a year's worth of newsletters to adequately answer this question. How about a quick list? In no particular order, amateur radio is talking to friends, making new friends, working DX, operating contests, providing public service communications, working all states, continents,

countries, US counties, world islands, grid squares, bouncing signals off the moon, meteor scatter, aurora, 160M, 80M, 40M, 30M, 20M, 17M, 15M, 12M, 10M, 6M, 2M, 1.25M, 70cm, 23cm, microwave, light, working through satellites, communicating with the space shuttle, MIR (maybe still), soon to the international space station, CW, AM, SSB, FM, SSTV, ATV, PSK31, APRS, Amtor, RTTY, Spread Spectrum, QRP, antenna experimenting, repeater building, electronics experimenting, kit building, bicycle mobile, backpack mobile, mountain topping, roving, DXpeditions, hamfests, club meetings and even more. In short, amateur radio is furthering one's education (maybe without even knowing it), fueling one's imagination, expressing one's creativity, exploring, having fun.

Now, as to which of those topics we should be talking about at club meetings. Pick a few. I think we have. I would like to see a few more. My call for people to talk about new

radios brought one response (thanks Bill). What area are you pursuing in amateur radio? Want to tell us about it? If not a club meeting how about an article in the newsletter (Pancho's always looking for stuff besides my ramblings to print). How about the Friday night nets? Maybe the repeater when it is operating in it's new home (a few weeks yet). There is plenty of opportunity for discussion. Let's get everyone involved. Tell us what you are doing.

At the November meeting we will take a few minutes to discuss the club operating budget for 2001. At that time we'll know how our belt tightening has done. Cross your fingers.

I got kind of philosophical this month (trying to change from ranting all the time). Did it make you think? Maybe make you want to volunteer for something? Maybe run for President next time? At least speak up once in a while (and by the way, volunteer for teaching a class).

David B. Weber

Recent Call Changes

Jerry Thompson - is now W9SFH
and
Brian White is now K9LCQ

*Spooky
Halloween*

October's Program

"Which way does your Antenna point?" : a round table discussion of the antennas MRAC members are using lead by Matt Planning - KB9PRC and some notes about the 2m J-Pole." Matt will provide a handout for the 2m "J-pole" that can be made out of practically anything ...

MRAC Board Meeting 9/25/Y2K

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets \$2,893.72 plus the club CD.

Dave, WB9BWP, reminded the Treasurer that next month will be the annual budget meeting and to be sure to have all his figures ready.

Special thanks to John, WB9PSE, for the use of his QTH for the meeting. The next board meeting will be at Dave's QTH.

Dave has instructed the secretary to purchase tickets for the 91 Hamfest and the West Allis Fest after approval from the board. Motion was approved.

John, KF9XL, says that he has the new 5 wpm CW tapes ready for VE testing. The tapes are in the new for-

mat established by the NCVEC's. Watch for testing rules and dates in the MRAC Chatter.

In November, MRAC will have a class for the Tech license held at AES. Exact times and dates will also be in the Chatter. The code practice will be over the air. Volunteers are still needed.

The books needed for classes will be for sale at AES. \$15 for the class and free membership in the club for one year if you pass the test.

Brian K9LCQ, has created a new member renewal form, much simplified from previous forms.

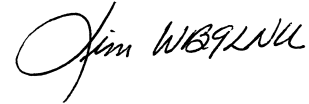
The new member form and renewal form are the same.

The repeater is coming along. Coax must be installed at the new site be-

fore operation can commence. The repeater is on with temporary antennas.

The Christmas party details were discussed and the Board decided to bring the details to the members at the Thursday meeting. This will establish the price per person. The estimated cost per person will be 19 to 20 dollars.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary



Jim - WB9LNU,
Secretary

Dues 'R Due. Let's Dues It!

MRAC Club Meeting 9/29/00

The meeting was called to order at 7:30

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets \$7,893.72 including the clubs \$5,000 CD.

The mic was passed for all to ID.

Dave, WB9BWP, -- Notice to all members -- VE testing will resume in Sept. The CW test will be in the new format established by the NCVEC's. 5WPM, with 25 characters correct in a row or 7 questions correct on the fill in the blank test.

The club will start with classes again on Nov. 4th and 11th. 9 to 12 at AES. The classes will be for the Tech license.

We are still looking for a volun-

teer teacher for the CW over the air classes. At the beginning of next year we will have a General class. Look for details in the Chatter. Class is free to members. \$15 for non-members. Any non-member who passes to test will get one year of free membership in the club.

The repeater is not ready yet. Antenna's and coax must still be installed. Should be ready by mid-November

A sign-up sheet was passed around, looking for additional volunteers to teach classes and CW.

The Christmas party was discussed with the members. The total cost per person is around \$19 if we put the beer and soda in with the cash bar instead of providing it

with the meal. The meal includes coffee and milk. The soda and flowers could be donated by a member as it has been in the past.

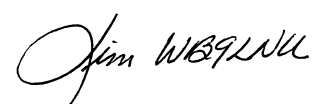
Notice to all members. Jerry Melotik's XYL has an antenna she would like to sell. Phone 358-0107.

Discussion between the members has concluded that every once and awhile we should have a meeting format that allows the members to discuss what they hear on the air and operating practice's. What's new with antenna's, radio's etc.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:08.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU
Secretary



Ham Classes Y2K

Saturdays - Nov. 4 and Nov. 11, 2000 will be our return to license classes with a Technician class.

The classes will take place at AES (Amateur Electronics Supply at 5700 W. Good Hope Rd. in Milwaukee and will run from 9:00 AM 'til 12:00 noon.

Ken Caruso will for sure be there on the 4th, so I guess he's in charge. Matt, Brian and Howard have volunteered.

The class will use the ARRL book, "Now You're Talking" (19⁰⁰ available from AES).

Anyone interested in teaching a General class cometime after the first of the year, think about how much time is needed to do a good job.

Dave - WB9BWP

CW Testing

Some changes have been made in the format for CW testing.

MRAC-VEC has changed to the new format in testing for Element One. The exam code tapes are 5 wpm with a character rate of either 13 or 14 wpm and a tone of 850 Hz.

To pass the exam, a candidate must answer correctly at least 7 out of 10 fill in the blank questions or have one minute of solid copy (25 consecutive characters) on their copy sheet. Spelling and legibility are important. A multiple choice answer type exam is no longer offered by MRAC-VEC.

73,

John (KF9XL)

John KF9XL

VE Testing

MRAC-VEC conducted amateur exams on Sept 30, 2000 at AES. There were 18 candidates and 16 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their first licenses.

16 elements were given and 10 were passed. The following VE's gave of their time and talent:

Ken Caruso - KS4NX
Tom Czaja - KG9EE
Bob Immekus - W9CYI
John Kraak - KF9XI
Jack Krause - W9JK
Will Lorenz - W9ZOL
Les Peterson - W9YCV
Sherm Swanson - KB9Q
Jerry Thompson - W9SFH

The following is a list of future test dates for the 2000/2001 exam season:

October 28, 2000
November 25, 2000
January 27, 2001
February 24, 2001
March 31, 2001
April 28, 2001
May 26, 2001
July 28, 2001

There may be an extra session in January and an extra session in April for swapfests/superfests, but our participation has not been scheduled as yet.

73,

John (KF9XL)

John KF9XL



Christmas Party

Vern Teske - W9YRA has been working on plans for the Christmas party.

He has reserved the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard Ave for Sunday - December 3. We will gather at 5:00 PM. and Dinner will be at 6:00 PM.

The meat choices will be Roast Beef, Baked Ham, and Baked Chicken.

The cost will be \$19.⁰⁰ per person.

There will be a map in the Nov. issue of the 'Chatter.



Repeater Work

Our technician crew is still hard at work relocating and tweaking our repeater. Our technical crew at present consists of Matt - WB9PRC, Nick broncatti - K'A9LUW, Jim Hansen - W9AQN, Dave - WB9BWP, and Jim - WB9LNU.

The repeater is still running in play mode - indoor antenna, coverage about 1 mile. The female voice (Juliet) and time announcements have been restored to the controller (an actual year 2000 software problem which Dave found the solution for on the net.

Stuff to do:

Mount antennas

Install feedlines (when received)

Still a few more weeks, depending on delivery of feedline (hardline and 9913 coax and connectors). Actually the hardest parts are done, figuring out a path for feedlines and getting measurements). Stay tuned.

Dave - WB9BWP



HO, Ho, Ho!

*Come to our
MRAC Christmas Party*

*Let's celebrate in style and get
Everyone out for the doin's.
It's the first one for the new milleneum.*

Sunday - December 03, 2000

Hospitality 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

The Patio

1421 E. Howard Ave.

Milwaukee, WI

(look for a map in the Nov. issue of HamateurChatter)

=====

For This Year's Christmas the meat dishes will be
Roast Beef, Baked Ham, and Baked Chicken with salad, bread, parsley buttered
potatoes, vegetables,
stuffing, cranberry sauce, pudding and beverage (coffee, milk).
Alcoholic beverages will be available at the bar at your expense.



The total cost per person is \$19.⁰⁰.

Please send for your dinner reservations A.S.A.P., (so we can plan).

We **MUST** have them **No later than November 21st.**

Please, Allow for Holiday Mailing Time!

Name / Call _____

Guest Name(s)/Call(s) _____



Number of persons _____ x \$19.⁰⁰ per person = \$_____

Please make your **check out to MRAC**

All dinner ticket requests
should go to the Club Treasurer:
Ken Eggert - W9MOT
2815 Santa Barbara Dr.
Brookfield, WI 53005-3711
or to the Club's P.O. Box

=====

Do It NOW!!!

=====

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

year 2001 Membership Renewal

Date _____

License class (check only one)

☐ Novice ☐ Technician ☐ Technician+ ☐ General ☐ Advanced ☐ Extra

Membership (check only one)

☐ Associate \$15.⁰⁰
☐ Family..... \$15.⁰⁰
☐ Regular \$15.⁰⁰
☐ Life with/'Chatter .. \$10.00 (minimum to cover the 'Chatter costs)

Name _____ Callsign _____

1st address _____

2nd Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____ - _____

Do you wish to start/continue to receive the 'Chatter via E-mail?

☐ Yes E-Mail address _____

☐ No Comment _____

Now that the repeater has been relocated, do you use the repeater?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comment: _____

Other Comments: _____

E

Events
(upcoming)

* indicates VE testing

MRC FEST
Sat. - Nov. 4, 2000
Waukesha Co Expo Center
Waukesha, WI

FOX CITIES AMATEUR *
RADIO CLUB HAMFEST
SUN. - NOV. 5, 2000

Starlight Club
Kaukauna, WI
T/I on 146.52 simp

HAMFEST MINNESOTA *
& COMPUTER EXPO
SAT. - OCT. 28, 2000
RiverCentre
St. Paul, MN
T/I on 146.16/76 MHz

29TH ANNUAL DAVENPORT RADIO CLUB
HAMFEST/COMPUTER SHOW
SUN. - NOV. 5, 2000
Iowa National Guard Hanger, Mt Joy Airport
Davenport, IA
T/I on 146.88/28
Alt 146.64/04 No PL

FORT WAYNE HAMFEST AND
COMPUTER EXPO
SAT & SUN - NOV. 18 & 19, 2000
Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum Expo Center
Fort Wayne, IN
GPS N 41 06.862 W 85 07.390

HAMFEST/COMPUTER SWAP 2000
SUN. - DEC. 3, 2000
L'anse Creuse High School
Mt. Clemens, MI
T/I on 147.080 + or 146.52 simp.

MRAC Christmas
Dinner and Party
SUN. - DEC. 3, 2000
Patio Club
Milwaukee, WI

October

BIRTHDAYS



Donald L. Virlee KG9II 11/03
Sus Musashi..... KB9OC 11/04
Rick Kissell WB9GYT 11/06
Floyd T. Urbanski KB9QZS... 11/19
Scott D. Frakes AA9VC 11/26
Kate Kedney..... KA9MWT 11/29

;; Happy Birthday !!

Brian K9LCQ
73 de Brian - K9LCQ

Visit our website at:

<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

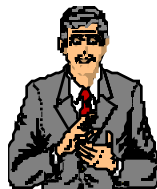
Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP WB9LNU KB9PRC
K9LCQ WB9PTC

Thanks to **Rita Doneis** and **Kristi Potochnik** for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to **John Merkl** and **Barbara Brewer** for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

We would also like to thank **Alfred Huwald**, and **Myron Hendrickson** for taking care of



the refreshments at our meetings.

Also our thanks goes to **Tom Scherlowsky** and **Jacque Horwitz** for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

And a Big Thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many thanks!!

Christmas Party

Vern Teske - W9YRA has been working on plans for the Christmas party.

He has has reserved the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard Ave. for Sunday - December 3. We will gather at 5:00PM. and Dinner will be at 6:00 PM.



MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - October 26, 2000 (Y2K)

7:30 PM

Program: **"Which way does your Antenna point?"**

Matt Planning - KB9PRC

Location: **Redemption Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church
for information!!!

Board meeting: **Mon. -October 23, 2000**

Next meeting: **October 26, 2000**

.....

HamateurChatter

Deadline is

November 1, 2000

October's Program

"Which way does your Antenna point?" : a round table discussion of the antennas MRAC members are using lead by Matt Planning - KB9PRC and some notes about the 2m J-Pole." Matt will provide a handout for the 2m "J-pole" that can be made out of practically anything ...

Our Repeater is an open one.
Use it or lose it!!!
147.045+ MHz



Madison, WI 53207-0695
P.O. Box 070695
Madison Radio Amateurs' Club

M. E. A. C.

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917
Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045 offset